

R E M A R K S

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of December 19, 2002 and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to provide section headings in order to bring the application into compliance with 37 CFR 1.77.

In order to overcome formal objections which have been raised by the Examiner against the claims and to clearly distinguish the claims from the cited art, all pending claims in the application have been cancelled without prejudice and replaced by claims 15-21. These claims are believed to be formally correct and allowable over the art cited.

Claim 15 is directed to a sealing arrangement (10, 10') which comprises first and second armature members, (11, 12) and a sealing ring (13, 13') interposed between the first and second armature members. A clamping means (30) clamps the armature members against each other. The sealing ring (13, 13') has a substantially T-shaped annular cross-section and includes first and second sealing wings (15, 16) extending in opposite axial directions. Each wing has a radially outwards facing sealing face (15a, 16a) and a central rigid stem (14) between the sealing wings and extending radially outwards thereof. Each

of the sealing faces (15a, 16a) is conically shaped to be supported against a radially surrounding correspondingly conically shaped gliding and support face (21, 25) in a corresponding armature member (11, 12). Each of the conical support faces (21, 25) of the armature member (11, 12) extends at a first cone angle (a) while each of the sealing rings (15, 16) extends at a second cone angle (b) greater than the cone angle (a) of the support surfaces of the armature member prior to mounting of the armature members on the sealing faces of the sealing ring. After mounting, the cone angle of the sealing faces of the sealing wings extend at the first cone angle (a) to form a tight sealing abutment against its corresponding support face (21, 25). The entire rigid stem (14) and the first sealing wing (15) are seated in the first armature member (11) and the second sealing wing (16) is seated in the second armature member (12).

The references which have been cited by the Examiner do not disclose the above construction of the sealing wings and the armature surfaces and clearly lack the arrangement in which the entire rigid stem and the first sealing wing are seated in the first armature member while the second sealing wing is seated in the second armature member. This arrangement of the seating of the sealing wings in the armature members is best viewed in Fig. 1a. Dependent claims 16-21 elaborate in greater detail on the seating of the wings of the sealing member in the armature members and find no suggestion thereof in the cited art.

Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of
the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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